Students Promote Wellness Across the City

College’s International Presence Grows

Faculty Research on the Nurse Workforce Advances the Profession
Save the Date

Wednesday, May 25, 2011
NYU Langone Medical Center Alumni Lunch
11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Murphy Conference Room
550 First Avenue
Dean Terry Fulmer will host a casual lunch for College of Nursing alumni.

Saturday, September 24, 2011
NYU Alumni Day
College of Nursing
Dean's Luncheon
Join us for lunch and a discussion of all that is happening at the College.

Vernice Ferguson Lecture on Contemporary Issues in Nursing and Health Care

For updated information, please call 212-998-5305.
Greetings from the Dean

Institute of Medicine Issues Groundbreaking Report on the Future of Nursing Seeks Broad Changes in Nursing Education and Practice

NYU Nursing Students: Promoting Wellness Across the City

Meeting Urgent Health Care Needs in a Global Community
NYU College of Nursing International Presence Grows

Research Report
NYU Faculty Research on the Nurse Workforce is Driving the Conversation

Celebrations

Remembering Florence Downs
A Leader in Nursing Research

Health Care on Wheels
Major Grant Expands College's Mobile Health Services

College and Faculty News

Letter from Dr. Ann Marie Mauro
NYU College of Nursing Alumni Association President

Alumni Achievements

Why I Give
Codi-Ann Dyer

Dean's Circle

Cover: College of Nursing students in purple scrubs, from left, Natacha Joseph '11, Nirali Thakker '11, and Lucy Choy-Xiong '12 talk with alumna Stephanie Katz, BS '10, about her experiences as a new nurse at NYU Langone Medical Center.
Dear Friends,

If I were to assign a theme to this issue of NYU Nursing, it would be NYU nurses are on the move!

First, we are on the move across the globe. Extraordinary events that have taken place around the world have underscored the necessity of preparing our graduates to be well versed in a wide variety of cultures and communities. As a global network university, NYU offers its students a wide range of opportunities for studies in New York, Abu Dhabi, Shanghai, and 10 additional international study sites. Under the leadership of President John Sexton, this expanding international network has enabled our students to advance their skills and knowledge in a global context.

As you’ll read in this issue, the College of Nursing plays an important role in the nursing profession. Our faculty are undertaking important research projects around the world, from helping chronic-disease patients manage their conditions in rural Nicaragua to developing strategies to reduce HIV/AIDS transmission in Kenya and Uganda. We have also begun a new Global Health Scholars Program to foster international exchange and assist health leaders across the world in bringing evidence-based practices to their communities. This semester we welcomed Gustav Moyo, chief executive officer of the Tanzanian Nurses and Midwives Council, as our first NYU College of Nursing Global Health Scholar.

We are on the move in the community. Around New York City, our nursing students are working with diverse populations, including older adults who are “aging in place” in lower Manhattan, Liberian refugees on Staten Island, and underserved minority groups in Brooklyn who are gaining vital access to health services and health literacy through our “Feeling Good in Your Neighborhood” mobile health van.

Collectively, NYU nursing students practice and learn in over 120 agencies throughout the city and the surrounding metropolitan area. In addition, our Winter Session continues to provide exceptional experiences for our students in communities around New York State. Courses in Saranac Lake, Saratoga Springs, and Cooperstown help us continue to build our momentum as the flagship college of nursing in the state. Our efforts to explore rural experiences, as well as community hospital-based experiences, are more examples of how we distinguish ourselves from other nursing programs evaluated. With more than 1,400 nursing students and continuing success for our graduates in the careers they choose, we are confident that the momentum for the profession is on a very positive course.

Most important, plans are moving ahead for a new home for our College of Nursing. With a location in the heart of NYU’s health corridor, and with our College of Dentistry also based in the new building, we look forward to dynamic interdisciplinary collaborations and a state-of-the-art home that will support the growing needs of our students and faculty.

I feel very fortunate to be witness to this exciting time in our College’s history. We at the College of Nursing invite you to visit our campus or to attend one of the many NYU events held throughout the year, which include opportunities to meet and share ideas with friends, alumni, colleagues, and nursing professionals. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Terry Fulmer
The Erline Perkins McGriff Professor
Dean, College of Nursing
The Future of Nursing
Seeks Broad Changes in Nursing Education and Practice

More than 200 NYU faculty, students, and community members gathered at NYU on October 12, 2010, to hear John “Jack” W. Rowe, MD (above), present a landmark report, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health, released by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The report is the result of a comprehensive two-year study from the Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing, at the Institute of Medicine. It proposes significant changes in nurses’ roles, responsibilities, and education to improve patient care and meet the demands of the health care system as it is transformed in the coming years by the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Rowe, a national health care leader, is a gerontologist and professor of health policy and management in the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. Dean Terry Fulmer noted that Dr. Rowe was the ideal person to describe this groundbreaking report, not only because he served on the IOM committee that produced it but because his career has touched on nearly every aspect of the health care system, from providing patient care to overseeing a health insurance company. Dr. Rowe was president and CEO of Aetna U.S. Healthcare from 2000 to 2006 and previously served as president of Mount Sinai Medical Center.

The October event included panelists Jennie Chin Hansen, MS, RN, FAAN, chief executive officer of the American Geriatrics Society; Judith Haber, PhD ’84, MA ’67, APRN, BC, FAAN, Ursula Springer Leadership Professor in Nursing and associate dean for graduate programs at NYU College of Nursing; and Marilyn DeLuca, PhD, RN, adjunct associate professor in the College of Nursing and assistant professor in NYU School of Medicine.

The IOM, an independent nonprofit organization that provides unbiased, evidence-based guidance to government agencies and other policymakers, has long been concerned with health care workforce issues.

“When the IOM takes on a topic, others take serious note,” said Dean Fulmer, who was elected to the Institute in October 2010. “This report will have a profound effect on us all.”

Dr. Rowe noted, “Nursing has three million members, it’s the largest sector of the health care workforce, and surveys show it’s the most respected.” Yet, the committee found that a number of barriers prevent the profession from responding most effectively to the changing health care system. At the same time, Dr. Rowe noted, the Affordable Care Act has created a substantial opportunity to provide higher-quality, safer, more affordable, and more accessible care, particularly for the 32 million additional people who will have health insurance coverage in the coming years. Reconceptualizing the role of nurses and expanding nurse faculty will be central to capturing this opportunity.

Another key finding of the report is that there is tremendous variability in nurses’ scope of practice across the country, and in many states, legal provisions hinder their ability to give care independently and use the full capacity of their education. In most western states, for example, nurse practitioners can see patients and prescribe medications without supervision, but in other areas of the country, they must work under a physician’s supervision.

“We are not alone in our view that there should be significant enhancement in the capacity of nurses to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and competence,” Dr. Rowe told the audience. The usual objection to expanding the scope of advanced practice nurses’ practice is that physicians have more training. Dr. Rowe acknowledged that physicians do have more hours of education and more expertise than nurses do on certain issues.

“What we are saying is that there is no evidence that physicians provide better basic primary care than nurses, and in fact, there are some 250 papers in the literature that indicate that nurses provide as good, or in some cases better, care than physicians.”

An expansion in nurses’ scope of practice would require nothing less than actions by Congress, state legislatures, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, and even the Federal Trade Commission and antitrust division of the Department of Justice. Trade-related entities have stepped into this arena in...
an effort to monitor potentially anti-
competitive practices on the part of some
health care professions. Dr. Rowe pointed
to a case in North Carolina that could have
an impact on battles related to nurses’
scope of practice. That state’s regu-
larly board of dentistry had prohibited
dental assistants from providing teeth-
whitening services, at the suggestion of
dentists in the state. Dental hygienists
sued the state and won their case. The Future of Nursing report makes a number
of recommendations aimed at govern-
mental agencies to ensure that nurses can
practice to the full extent of their training.
(See map below for nurse practitioner inde-
pendent practice requirements by state.)

To reduce nurse turnover—a significant
expense for the health care system and
a factor in safe patient care—the report
recommends the implementation of
nurse residency or other transition-to-
practice programs. “This is not a new
idea, but an idea whose time has come,”
Dr. Rowe said. The committee further
recommends that the well over $100 mil-
lion in government funding for diploma
nursing programs be reallocated toward
nurse residency programs.

The report calls for widespread improve-
m ents in nursing education to ensure safe,
effective patient care for a growing aging
population and strongly supports increas-
ing the percentage of nurses who have
bachelor’s degrees from the current 50%
to 85%. It further advocates that public
and private funding bodies help nurses to
earn their bachelor’s degrees within five
years of graduation from non–baccalaureate
nursing programs and that community col-
eges expand their capacity to provide this
training. The need for nurses educated at the
graduate level is a strong focus of the report,
which recommends that nursing schools
aim to transition at least 10% of their
bachelor’s degree graduates into master’s
programs within five years. Among the most
challenging, albeit critical, of the report’s
proposals is to double the number of nurses
with doctoral degrees by 2020 to help solve
the current shortage of nursing faculty.
The Future of Nursing concludes that the
power to change conditions to allow nurses
to deliver optimal health care does not
rest solely with nurses. Yet nurses must
assume greater levels of leadership in the
health care system, identifying problems
and implementing improvements. “Where
are the RN MBAs? Where are the leader-
ship courses in nursing and fellowships
for nurses to work in health policy? This
is a tremendous gap,” said Dr. Rowe. The
committee recommends that health care
organizations, nursing associations, and
schools expand opportunities for nurses
to lead and collaborate in improvement
efforts. The committee’s final recommend-
dation is to build the needed infrastructure
to collect and analyze interprofessional
health care workforce data. The Affordable
Care Act establishes two national bodies
that will address these needs.

NYU College of Nursing Professor
Christine Kovner, PhD ’85, RN, FAAN,
was among the elite nursing research-
ers enlisted by the Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation to provide data to help the
committee make its recommendations. Dr.
Kovner worked with Maja Djukic, PhD ’09,
RN, assistant professor, in providing the
committee with information on enrollment
in nursing-education programs.

“Dr. Kovner’s work, as well as the back-
ground papers provided by other experts,
was central to the productivity of the com-
mittee,” Dean Fulmer says.

Panelists at the event agreed that The Future of Nursing had already generated
very substantial interest from the nursing
and medical communities. Jennie Chin
Hansen applauded Dr. Rowe’s leadership
in tackling these controversial issues. Dr.
Judith Haber acknowledged the wisdom
of the interdisciplinary focus of the
report, particularly its emphasis on nurse
practitioners as key to providing high-
quality health care.

“The combination of the force of this
report, coupled with health care reform
legislation, brings the stars into alignment
across health professions, to create [poli-
cies]... that are necessary to remove the
barriers to health care access for U.S. citi-
zens as we bring another 32 million people
into the insurable scope of health care over
the next few years,” Dr. Haber said.
NYU Nursing Students: Promoting Wellness Across the City

When Jessica Magaldi, BS ’11, arrived at the apartment of one of her clients during her Community Health Nursing rotation, the older woman did not respond to repeated knocks at the door. It turned out that the client had fallen and was not able to unlock the door. Because Jessica sought help, emergency services were called, and the client was taken to the hospital and treated for dehydration.

This story is just one of many in which NYU students have made differences in the lives of those in New York City and around the world while honing their nursing skills. Experiences like these have a tremendous impact not only on the patients but on the students, too.

“Community experiences are mutually beneficial,” says Michelle Eaton, DNP, APRN, course coordinator, with Susan Lombardo, PhD, RN, of the Community Health Nursing class. “They help students develop basic skills, cultural competencies, and a larger appreciation for the environmental factors underlying patients’ health problems. At the same time, when our students work in the community, they provide a tremendous service to organizations that struggle to finance the care they give.”

The centerpiece of this work is the Community Health Nursing course. Most nursing students tend to envision themselves at a patient’s bedside in a hospital, but this course often prompts students to consider community-based roles. During the course, nursing students rotate through placements in sites that include naturally occurring retirement communities, the College’s mobile health van, Pathways to Housing (which provides services to formerly homeless people with mental health issues), the Isabella Geriatric Center, and the Visiting Nurse Service of New York.

NYU nursing students are engaged with communities at many other levels as well — from assisting faculty with international research to volunteering at the Staten Island–based organization African Refuge to organizing a large College presence at the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk.

These experiences require “system thinking,” according to Ms. Eaton. That is, they call for students to look at the larger societal issues contributing to illness. “Many people are sick not because of an internal biological mechanism but because of a work, home, or community environment that exerts a huge impact on them,” Ms. Eaton says, noting the widespread impact of poverty on chronic illness.

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“Community experiences are mutually beneficial. They help students develop basic skills...[and] provide a tremendous service to organizations that struggle to finance the care they give.” — Michelle Eaton

Courtney Hubschmann (right) with her client, Geraldine.
CareLink clients do not require regular home care from a nurse, but many are frail and have chronic health conditions. About 65% of the students in the Community Health Nursing course do their rotations in a NORC. Students focus on health promotion and wellness, helping patients meet goals like controlling their blood sugar or blood pressure, losing weight, exercising, or improving the safety of their homes. Students also provide practical assistance, such as helping clients obtain medications or reporting problems with heat or broken windows to their landlords.

Student’s Action Helps Avert Crisis

Since 1990, Geraldine has lived in the John Haynes Holmes Towers, a large New York City Housing Authority complex that stands adjacent to the Stanley Isaacs Housing Development on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Community Health Nursing students work with clients in these high-rise buildings under the supervision of Clinical Instructor Donna McCabe, DNP, APRN-BC, GNP.

At 9:00 a.m. on a Tuesday in fall 2010, Dr. McCabe’s students—all enrolled in the 15-month accelerated baccalaureate nursing program—gather in a small, bright conference room at the Stanley Isaacs Senior Center to discuss the clients they will visit that day. Each of Dr. McCabe’s eight students has been making weekly home visits to three or four clients for 13 weeks. It is the end of the semester, and they are getting ready to see their clients for the last time.

Courtney Hubschmann is eager to visit Geraldine. Several weeks earlier, Geraldine was admitted to the hospital for a sickle cell crisis. After Geraldine returned home, she told Courtney that she had a bad headache—the result of not being able to refill her blood-pressure medication while she was in the hospital. Courtney called Dr. McCabe, who immediately got in touch with Huda Scheidelman, RN, the on-site VNSNY nurse, who in turn contacted Geraldine’s doctor. Courtney picked up the prescription from the pharmacy and brought it to Geraldine, heading off another emergency.

According to Ms. Scheidelman, it is not unusual for NYU nursing students to help avert a crisis. She believes that CareLink reduces hospitalizations and that living in this caring community keeps many residents from having to move into nursing homes.

“Nursing students take time to educate clients about new disease processes, medications, and home safety,” Ms. Scheidelman says. “They have been particularly helpful in identifying medication non-adherence among patients who may think it’s not a problem to take their medications inconsistently.”

Courtney agrees that CareLink benefits students and clients alike, noting that Geraldine “teaches me as much as I teach her.”

Now, in her last visit with Geraldine, Courtney asks a series of questions: Is she keeping up her fluid intake? Is she seeing her hematologist? Courtney also asks whether Geraldine has tried the cookbook that Courtney and another student compiled for her, containing healthy recipes that require only three ingredients.

“Just last week I made the drumsticks from Courtney’s recipe, and they were delicious,” Geraldine says. She adds, “CareLink has been very helpful in keeping me healthy.”

Building Trust and Safety

Older adults make up about one-quarter of the population of Stanley Isaacs and Holmes Towers, and more than half of them live on their own. CareLink targets these solo dwellers. One such resident is Harriet, 68, who has lived in Holmes Towers for 14 years. She has multiple chronic health problems and had two knee operations in 2007. Jessica Magaldi, the nursing student who worked with Harriet, recognized that clutter posed a more immediate threat to Harriet’s health than any of her co-morbidities.

It is hard to squeeze a lifetime into a small space, Jessica acknowledges, and she has been helping Harriet organize bags and boxes of papers. Harriet navigates her way through her small apartment using a cane, and the risk of tripping is serious. Overall, Jessica says, Harriet has made a lot of progress in reducing her clutter over the past several months.

“CareLink has made such a big difference in my life,” Harriet says. “When Jessica is here, everything gets done. The apartment is much safer and less crowded.”
Dr. McCabe emphasizes that there are important differences between building relationships with patients in community settings versus health facilities. In the hospital, patients may feel intimidated. With students in their homes, they open up. Students alike benefit from working in patients’ homes. As Jessica says, “You go beyond what you learned in a textbook; you learn your own style of nursing.”

Hetal Patel, BS ’11, agrees: “In the hospital, you have so many resources. In someone’s home, you really have to use your critical thinking skills. It’s a lot of pressure at first to work inside someone’s home, but over time, I think you get a much deeper understanding of your clients.”

NYU’s community health nursing students serve one of the most diverse populations in the country, and they learn to assess how the urban environment affects their clients’ health. Dr. McCabe’s students wrote an advocacy letter to Assemblyman Jonathan Bing expressing concern about the difficulty older residents had navigating the pedestrian passageways around the Second Avenue subway construction project and about neighborhood air quality.

Grace Balter, RN, college-relations specialist at VNSNY, says that the clients’ feedback about the program is overwhelmingly positive. “This rotation is much more than a training ground for the students,” she says. “They become their clients’ advocates, helping them resolve issues that are difficult to manage. For homebound people, the student nurse may be the only person they see in their home on some days.”

Ms. Balter adds that the community health nursing rotation is an ideal way for students to complete their nursing preparation because they learn to work independently and to integrate what they have learned in nursing with other disciplines, including social work and medicine, as well as with client families and agencies with which the client might be involved.

Volunteering with Liberian Refugees Is a Lesson in Cultural Competency

The Park Hill neighborhood of Staten Island is home to thousands of refugees from Liberia’s devastating civil war. Many Liberians were relocated from refugee camps to these low-rise red brick buildings by international agencies during the 1980s and 1990s. Yet the refugees have found that their problems persist in their new home: unemployment is rampant; apartments are overcrowded; healthy food is difficult to procure; and many refugees, including former child soldiers, suffer from mental health issues. African Refuge, a grassroots, volunteer-run organization, has aided this underserved community, known as “Little Liberia,” since 2003, helping immigrants find employment, acquire basic skills, and get the social services they need.

Cheryl Nadeau, RN, MS, FNP-C, a clinical instructor at the College of Nursing, became involved with African Refuge by tutoring children and helping adults with their citizenship applications. But it became clear to her that providing health care was the most important thing she could do in this community. At a local health fair, she discovered that many people had high blood pressure. Some had been given prescriptions for blood pressure medication without understanding that they needed to refill their prescriptions or learning about the importance of diet. In 2008, Ms. Nadeau sought the support of colleagues at Wagner College on Staten Island, where she worked at the time, including Annemarie Dowling.

“It is hard to tell which is a more significant determinant of health — the war they escaped or their day-to-day poverty.” — Cheryl Nadeau

Castronovo, MA-GNP ’96, RN, a professor of community health nursing, to obtain funding and involve students in the project. The manager of the building where African Refuge is housed donated space for the Partnership in Community Health Program, as it is now called. When Ms. Nadeau joined the College of Nursing in 2010, she immediately began encouraging nursing students to volunteer there.

Clinical Instructor Cheryl Nadeau (standing, second from right) and nursing student volunteers spend Saturdays bringing health care to a Liberian refugee community on Staten Island.

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“This is a very underserved community. There is no hospital, no bank, no grocery store. People are very poor and have a great deal of chronic illness,” Ms. Nadeau says. Although immigrant children can enroll in Medicaid, adults face long waits for coverage and must travel far on public transportation to the federally qualified health centers in other communities to receive care. Community members have high levels of stress, Ms. Nadeau says, and it is hard to tell which is a more significant determinant of health—the war they escaped or their day-to-day poverty.

Joni Timmins, BS ’11, a student of Ms. Nadeau’s, became the first NYU student to volunteer. Her enthusiasm was contagious, and soon many other students joined her. For the past six months, 10 to 12 students have been coming to the health program on Saturdays. They monitor blood pressure, take physical assessments, provide health education and screening, distribute food pantry bags, and provide referrals to further care. The program logged about 1,000 patient visits in the past year.

By volunteering with an ethnically diverse African community, students see the concept of “cultural competency” come to life, as they learn to surmount language and literacy barriers as well as understand the deep-seated cultural beliefs that underlie health attitudes. Joni says that her experiences at African Refuge perfectly illustrate her professors’ teachings about cultural understanding. She tells the story of a man with hypertension who was waiting for a chance encounter with a healer who could cure it. Joni explained that his beliefs were important but that he could also benefit from medicine, which he accepted. Ms. Nadeau teaches the students not to dismiss beliefs that are seemingly not grounded in science but to try to incorporate them in the treatment plan.

One of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering, Joni says, is the gratitude expressed by patients. One of those patients is William Jones, a 32-year resident of the building that houses the health program. Mr. Jones has had trouble walking since having spinal surgery, and without the program, he says, he would have to take an ambulance to Staten Island Hospital to receive essential services. On a recent Saturday, Sarah David, BS ’11, took his blood pressure, reporting that it was within a healthy range. She sent him off with a food pantry bag containing rice, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, powdered milk, dried beans, and fruit juice. “This is really very helpful,” Mr. Jones says. “They’ve taught me so many things.”

According to Ms. Nadeau, building trust with the community is critical. Neighborhood residents are used to visits from health teams that appear once and do not come back. Over time, they are realizing that the Partnership in Community Health Program is staying. That message was reinforced this winter, when the program became an official Community Health Nursing clinical placement site.

Helping Immigrant Teens Bridge the Generation Gap

On Friday evenings at African Refuge, young women meet for a discussion group, which College of Nursing students have helped to facilitate. The participants grapple with the tremendous generational differences between their lives and the lives of their parents. Nursing students listen to their concerns and teach them about a variety of health issues, from nutrition to reproductive health.

“It’s a high-risk community with a high rate of teen pregnancy,” says Charlene Baron, BS ’11, “but the girls have a very difficult time asking their parents questions about sex.” Charlene and her classmates invited students to write down their questions anonymously. The leaders were struck that the teens also wanted to learn about issues related to self-esteem, such as how to deal with criticism and navigate conflicts.

Working in the community, through volunteering and other experiences, has had a profound influence on the students’ career goals. “In the community, you’re not just dealing with a disease and sending people home. You’re seeing a person’s whole lifestyle,” says Mamadou Fall, BS ’11, who has a unique perspective on the African refugee community. Originally from Senegal, Mamadou hopes to take his knowledge and material supplies back to his home community, where diabetes and other health care problems are growing.

Cheryl Nadeau expresses great pride in each of her student volunteers. “The passion and motivation that they bring to our program and to this community is truly remarkable,” she says.
College of Nursing International Presence Grows

By Andrea Glick

From Kenya to Nicaragua to South Korea, NYU nursing faculty members are embarking on new international collaborations and research. In doing so, they are expanding the presence of the College of Nursing in global public health, according to Marilyn DeLuca, PhD, RN, who is leading global health special projects at the College this semester.

These international collaborations intersect with the significant growth of University-wide international initiatives as NYU transforms itself into a global network university.

“Globally, there is a huge shortage of health care professionals and community workers. The increasing prevalence of chronic conditions in low- and middle-income countries is exacerbating the need for primary care nurses and physicians in these settings,” Dr. DeLuca says. “Educating and retaining health care workers is essential to improving global health. College of Nursing faculty are leading projects to address global health care workforce issues as well as designing research and building collaborations to respond to urgent needs.”

A priority of the College’s international work is to expand the capacity of nurses and nurse-educators in research and evidence-based practice, particularly in the low-income countries, according to Madeline Naegle, PhD ’80, MA ’67, APRN-BC, FAAN, director of international programs.

“Our faculty is poised to address pressing issues in global public health and to bring a global perspective and a cultural sensitivity to evidence-based nursing practices,” Dr. Naegle says.

The College of Nursing was designated in 2004 as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center under Dr. Naegle’s direction. This designation was built on relationships established over the past 20 years in Latin America under the leadership of Beatrice Goodwin, PhD ’70, MA ’60, RN, and Eliana Horta, MS, MPH, RN. The College also has developed strong ties to universities and health centers in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean.

International relationships are best when reciprocal, and many nursing educators from abroad come to teach and study at NYU. Last fall, the College welcomed the recipient of its first Global Health Scholarship, a high-level Tanzanian health official. The program was initiated by Professor Ann Kurth, PhD, CNM, FAAN, to provide nurse leaders in the developing world with...
global Health Scholar Gustav Moyo.

access to the scientific resources of NYU with the goal of improving care in their home countries. Mr. Moyo spent three months at NYU studying research methods and working with Dr. Kurth, who heads the College’s global health initiatives, to develop research proposals.

Mr. Moyo says, while nurse-midwives in Tanzania deliver the bulk of health care, they are in short supply, extremely overworked, and have little chance to advance their learning or to develop applied research skills.

“They only nurses do research can they make meaningful proposals to advance nursing care,” Mr. Moyo says. “At NYU, I have met several faculty members doing relevant studies, and I believe we can benefit from their experience.”

The Global Health Scholarship is currently made possible by the generosity of founding donors Marion Bergman, MD, and Stanley Bergman. The College aims to raise enough funds to create an endowment that could bring one scholar to the College of Nursing per semester. To donate to the Global Health Scholarship, please contact Dr. Ann Kurth, akurth@nyu.edu, or Development Director Larry Siegel, larry.siegel@nyu.edu.

Respecting Local Cultures in HIV/AIDS Research
Exploring Treatment Compliance on the U.S.-Mexico Border

Professor Michele Shedlin, PhD, recently completed a two-year study funded by the NIH through the Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center at University of Texas at El Paso, where she was formerly co-director. As principal investigator, she explored adherence to antiretroviral medications (ARVs) by people of Mexican origin living with AIDS in Juarez, Mexico, across the border from El Paso, Texas. All of the research participants live a zone affected by daily violence.

Dr. Shedlin is interested in how socio-cultural norms affect patients’ treatment decisions. She employed in-depth interviews, focus groups, and participant observation to identify the cultural, institutional, and individual factors that affect ARV adherence. To help participants describe their perception and experience of AIDS and the side effects of medication, Dr. Shedlin developed an innovative instrument, a body-image drawing, that enables people with low literacy to describe where and how they believe HIV and ARVs affect their bodies. She found that knowledge and perceptions of HIV, and medication side effects, vary a great deal from person to person.

The results will be used to inform clinic and community-based services on the border and will also yield recommendations for developing more culturally appropriate and effective services for Latinos living with AIDS and their families.

Dr. Shedlin is also leading a research team exploring characteristics of Columbian refugees who cross the border into Ecuador, fleeing drug-related violence. With an NIH R21 grant, her team has conducted interviews and focus groups with refugees and others about refugees’ access to health services, their risk for HIV, drug use, and other health issues. One of the researchers’ key accomplishments has been to train local development and refugee organizations in skills that will enable them to research immigrant populations, especially in the areas of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse.

To Lower HIV Risk: Get Moms and Daughters to Talk about Sex

According to Dr. Hutchinson, baseline reports from the study participants point to certain characteristics of mother-daughter relationships that seem to lessen the risk-taking behavior of adolescent girls, such as communication about sexual health.

More than 300 mother-daughter pairs were assigned to a control or intervention group. The intervention participants attended sessions on subjects such as how mothers can monitor and set limits on their daughters’ sexual behavior and skills daughters can use to refuse or abstain from sex or to protect themselves if they do have sex. The pairs were tested immediately after the educational program and again at two subsequent intervals. Dr. Hutchinson and her research team from NYU College of Nursing, the University of the West Indies College of Nursing, and the University of Pennsylvania expect to begin analyzing data by June 2011.

Project Director Juliet Weir, who is originally from Kingston, Jamaica, was instrumental in launching this study; Tanyka Smith, MS, FNP, RN, a doctoral student, led the analysis of the instrument that measures maternal sexual role modeling, and Emily Alter ’11, developed a teaching brochure for mothers.

A Digital Device Is a Weapon against AIDS

In western Kenya, where Dr. Ann Kurth is conducting a five-year HIV/AIDS study, early findings have shown that, among heterosexual couples of childbearing age, one in four households included couples where either one or both partners were HIV positive.

“It’s sobering to see how endemic HIV still is,” said Dr. Kurth, a longtime HIV researcher. In Rongo, Kenya, Dr. Ann Kurth’s collaborators update patient records in mobile HIV-testing tents.
The NIH-funded study examines how a couple’s desire for children affects HIV risk, especially in a country where cultural norms favor large families. Dr. Kurth’s team uses GPS devices to randomly select rural households to conduct HIV and pregnancy tests for couples in their homes. The couples then use separate handheld computers to privately take an audio behavioral survey.

Also in western Kenya, Dr. Kurth’s team, in collaboration with a local expert advisory panel, created content for a wireless touch-screen tablet that delivers computerized counseling. A second NIH R01 study will test whether such a tool can assist overstretched clinics in helping patients adhere to their antiretroviral therapy and practice safer sex.

In Mombasa, Dr. Kurth has begun enrolling women in a study to see whether persuading them to stop intravaginal practices such as douching can restore a healthy vaginal ecology and reduce HIV risk. Dr. Kurth teamed with Dr. Sumathi Sivapalasingam of NYU School of Medicine on this study, which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Faculty Research Helps Nurses Save Lives**

**Targeting Critically Ill Infants in Ghana**

A collaborative program in Ghana between NYU College of Nursing and School of Medicine led to a recent study by Clinical Assistant Professor Mary Brennan, DNP, ACNP-BC, ANP, CNS, RN, which has shown promising results for reducing infant mortality. NYU and the University of Ghana established an emergency and general health care program there in 2008. After visiting the country with an NYU team, Dr. Brennan, who coordinates the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program, returned frequently to work with colleagues at the University of Ghana and the affiliated Korle Bu Hospital to find ways to support nurses in improving health care for patients with acute and critical illnesses.

In developing countries, critically ill infants and children often wait hours for emergency care, and many die because nurses lack skills in pediatric resuscitation, according to Dr. Brennan. “Immediate assessment can lead to simple interventions, such as inserting an IV to administer fluids, that could save lives,” she explains. “But Ghanaian nurses, who are often the first to evaluate children in the emergency room, lack training in this area or are restricted in their nursing practice.”

Dr. Brennan conducted a one-day nurse training program on pediatric resuscitation in January 2010 and followed it with a pilot study to determine the program’s impact on participants’ skills. Results demonstrated that the training program was associated with an increase in nurses’ knowledge, psychomotor skills, and self-efficacy in pediatric resuscitation.

“Education in pediatric resuscitation for all nurses in Ghana is a low-cost intervention that might have tremendous potential for reducing Ghana’s high infant- and child-mortality rate,” says Dr. Brennan, who was accompanied in providing the training by two recent NYU graduates, Rose Ann Ruddy, MS ’10, ACNP-BC, RN, and Kwame Mensah Wiedru, MS ’10, RN, a Ghanaian native.

**Translating Research into International Practice**

**Improving the Quality of Life for Cancer Survivors**

Assistant Professor Mei Fu, PhD, RN, is known for her groundbreaking research to help breast cancer patients manage and prevent the debilitating symptom lymphedema. She is also collaborating with researchers abroad to translate her methods to various countries and cultures in ways that will advance the practice of nursing internationally.

Dr. Fu recently collaborated with Eunjung Ryu, PhD, RN, a professor at Chung Ang University in Seoul, Republic of Korea, to explore clusters of symptoms in people with liver cancer. Their findings, published in *Cancer Nursing* in 2010, showed that symptoms of liver cancer could be grouped into identifiable clusters. They also found that patients reporting more severe symptom clusters reported a markedly lower quality of life, as well as higher levels of depression and anxiety, than those with milder symptoms.

“Most symptom interventions only touch on a single symptom, such as nausea or fatigue,” Dr. Fu says. Her research indicates that interventions targeting a cluster of three or four symptoms could make a major difference to patients, particularly for patients whose symptoms are more severe. “Even moving symptoms from moderate to mild can have an impact on quality of life,” Dr. Fu says.

She and her Korean colleagues recently translated into Korean an index measuring multiple cancer symptoms that Dr. Fu had developed in the United States. She is also working with colleagues from China to translate the index into Chinese. Her hope is that accurately measuring the effect of cancer symptoms on patient quality of life will lead to interventions that improve life for all people with cancer.

**Helping Impoverished Communities Fight Diabetes**

Assistant Professor Kelley Newlin, DNSc, ARNP-C, CDE, has been working in Nicaragua since 2008, conducting research while bringing desperately needed health care to three communities on the English Creole- and Spanish-speaking Atlantic coast. Her patients are Nicaraguans of African and Indian descent—a minority group with high rates of diabetes due to a genetic predisposition and increased urbanization. Compounding the large prevalence of diabetes, patients lack consistent access to medications, testing supplies, and comprehensive education. Dr. Newlin hopes to stem the widespread amputations, fatal heart attacks, and loss of vision, which are common diabetes-related outcomes in the region.

The communities in which Dr. Newlin works—Bluefields, Tasbapauni, and Pearl Lagoon—are impoverished to a degree that is unimaginable to most Americans. The average salary is $500 per year, and employment opportunities are often inadequate. There is limited farming in the region, and a few apples might cost as much as $1 to $2. With assistance from NYU College of Nursing and in collaboration with local churches and the country’s Ministry of Health, Dr. Newlin
founded three clinics to treat underserved patients with conditions like diabetes and hypertension. Originally invited to the country by a Nicaraguan colleague, Dr. Newlin conducted extensive research and community outreach before opening the clinics. She is also providing extensive education, as well as medicines, supplies, and books to local nurses.

In March and October 2010, Dr. Newlin brought two NYU graduate students to assist in her teaching and research: Tatiana Burgess, RN, BSN, BA, an Adult Care Nurse Practitioner student and former schoolteacher, and Nancy Arbuah, RN, MN, a student in the Adult Holistic Nurse Practitioner Program who had worked in orthopedics in a Canadian hospital.

Dr. Newlin’s goal is to translate evidence-based diabetes education, proven efficacious in the developed world, to community contexts in the developing world. For similar research on diabetes community contexts in the developing world, from a medical supply company local nurses provide collaborative patient education.

“The nurses are very receptive to us because we are learning from them as well.”
— Nancy Arbuah

world. For similar research on diabetes care in a faith-based setting in Harlem, she was recently awarded a Clinical and Translational Science Institute Scholar Award from the NIH, funded through NYU School of Medicine.

To help local nurses provide the type of patient management that is greatly needed, Dr. Newlin arranged for the donation of a hemoglobin A1C machine—the first in the region—from a medical supply company in Florida. The machine is one of the most advanced and reliable technologies to measure glycemic control. Dr. Newlin also provided the local diabetes clinics and Ministry of Health with disposable hemoglobin A1C machines and trained church nurses and the only endocrinologist in the area, Dr. Noel Soza Rodriguez, in their use.

On two recent journeys to Nicaragua, Dr. Newlin, Nancy, and Tatiana focused on training the church-based nurses in evidence-based diabetes education and care. Working closely with Dr. Soza, students spent much of their time with four local nurses in one of the clinics, observing their work, helping them manage their patients, and reinforcing the guidelines of the American Diabetes Association.

“Nurses are well known and respected in Nicaragua,” says Nancy, who assessed the nurses’ knowledge and provided them with online diabetes education several months before the most recent visit. She continues to provide weekly long-distance educational sessions to these nurses and has played a lead role in training them in the ethical conduct of human-subject research, as they will be delivering the church-based diabetes intervention. She says that the nurses’ knowledge of diabetes has improved dramatically because of the work that Dr. Newlin has done.

“The nurses are very receptive to us because we are learning from them as well,” Nancy says. For example, in Nicaragua the NYU nursing students held daily classes in a local church, with each student taking a textbook chapter and leading the group.

One of the central messages that the nursing students took away from the experience was the need for great cultural sensitivity, especially when talking with patients about behavior change.

Tatiana says, “People in Nicaragua lack the resources necessary to make better dietary choices. The choices available are a wide array of carbohydrates, because that is what is affordable. This leads to an excessive intake of foods such as rice and beans. It is unrealistic for us to tell people not to eat what is available, so we tell them to eat less and increase their physical activity.”

Tatiana notes that a growing awareness of these recommendations, along with community support, can help people from this region gain better control over their diabetes. She adds that patients’ religious beliefs make management of their diabetes easier and important to them.

Traveling to eastern Nicaragua is not without challenges—from cold showers to outhouses—but Tatiana and Nancy share a profound sense of responsibility to use their nursing skills to the benefit of those who are less advantaged. According to Tatiana, it will be a very long process to improve the health of these communities, but Dr. Newlin and her team are already making an impact by bringing health promotion, prevention, and screening to those at risk.

Dr. Newlin has received an NYU Global Health Challenge Grant and donations to pursue her interdisciplinary approach. She traveled to Nicaragua in March 2011 with an outreach team from the Colleges of Nursing and Dentistry to provide dental care, study rates of periodontal disease among people with diabetes, and determine whether periodontal treatment can lower blood glucose levels.
NYU Faculty Research on the Nurse Workforce Is Driving the Conversation

Our College is home to a growing core of health services researchers—faculty who take a wide-angle view of nursing, analyzing large amounts of data to develop a greater understanding of the delivery of nursing care, its impact on patient outcomes, and the challenges and opportunities facing the profession. Over the past decade, the national nursing shortage has been a driving force for this research. Health care reform has made even more evident the urgent need for accurate information on the nurse workforce and its relationship to patient outcomes.

Christine Kovner | Newly Licensed Registered Nurse Study Yields Trove of Information

The work of College of Nursing Professor Christine Kovner, PhD ’85, RN, FAAN, and her co-investigator Carol S. Brewer, PhD, RN, professor at University at Buffalo School of Nursing, is filling a critical research gap. In 2005, they began a major study to determine the factors that influence newly licensed registered nurses’ (NLRNs) career decisions. Dr. Kovner received two grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to conduct this 10-year study. Her team has surveyed the same panel of RNs in 34 states and the District of Columbia four times—it is the only nationally representative panel survey of nurses.

“The NLRN panel is not really one study; it’s actually eight,” Dr. Kovner says. “With four years of data, there is a lot we are learning about nurses’ work patterns.”

Most new RNs stay in the profession—a fact that has been surprising to some, according to Dr. Kovner. However, 48% of nurses change jobs within three years of starting their first position—a turnover rate that has a deep impact on employers. The top three professional reasons for leaving the first job are poor management, stressful work environment, and desire to get experience in another clinical area.

The NLRN study is yielding an abundance of data on numerous aspects of nurses’ work and lives that will be used even beyond the researchers’ original intent for years to come. The study delves into demographic characteristics of nurses, such as their ages, marital status, and whether they have children, as well as their personalities, work motivation, and work environments.

Dr. Kovner hopes that the NLRN study will be used to help hospital managers and chief nursing officers ensure that factors highly predictive of job satisfaction—particularly collegial work relationships, organizational support, and opportunities for promotion—are in place in their organizations.

The NLRN study has already created spinoff studies and avenues of research for several NYU nursing faculty members and PhD students. More information about the study is available at RNWorkproject.org.

Maja Djukic | Combining NLRN Data with Other Research

In her doctoral dissertation, Maja Djukic, PhD ’09, RN, used Drs. Kovner and Brewer’s model to survey nurses at NYU Langone Medical Center about the impact of the physical work environment on their job satisfaction. Using NLRN data, Dr. Djukic, now an NYU assistant professor of nursing, in collaboration with Drs.
Kovner and Brewer, continues to build on her dissertation study to understand the impact of the physical plant on nurse satisfaction as well as on NLRNs’ perceptions of patient care quality. Nurses were asked about environmental issues including furniture placement, lighting, and noise. Preliminary data in the national sample show that these factors affect job satisfaction and RNs’ perceptions of the quality of patient care. Dr. Djukic, who worked as an RN for six years before entering the master’s and then doctoral program at the College of Nursing, says that concerns about her own work conditions led her to this subject.

“As a nurse, I felt that the hospital work environment constrained my ability to provide the best care, and it is really a passion of mine to try to change that,” says Dr. Djukic. “We have the best evidence for care, such as turning patients every few hours, but if you can’t do that because of issues such as poor staffing or communication with your manager or physician colleagues, then you can’t provide the best care.”

In another study using NLRN data, Marie-Claire Rosenberg, PhD, RN, assistant professor, collaborated with Dr. Kovner to compare the travel time of nurses living in rural, suburban, and urban areas. Using national census data and the NLRN data from Dr. Kovner’s study, Dr. Rosenberg and her colleagues found that nurses in rural areas travel for greater lengths of time to work. Further research is needed to fully understand the effect of travel time on the RN labor supply. However, the study suggests that health care employers should be attentive to commuting distance, which can be quite significant. Targeted resources, such as travel subsidies, may help ensure an adequate supply of providers where they are needed. In addition, increased use of technologies—such as e-ICUs and e-radiology consults—are emerging opportunities that may minimize the importance of travel distance.

Planning for the Changes to Come

Dr. Kovner was one of four research managers retained by the RWJF in its work with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) on the report The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health. Her role was to identify research on the nurse workforce to aid the committee’s work. For example, she and Dr. Djukic developed an estimate of the number of qualified applicants to nursing programs who are not accepted. They published this information in 2009 in the Journal of Professional Nursing. Additionally, Drs. Kovner and Djukic produced an analysis of the overlap between the practice areas of physicians and non–nurse practitioner RNs, which was published in 2010 in Policy, Politics, & Nursing Practice.

What Are Nurses Learning about Quality Improvement?

Dr. Kovner’s pool of research subjects is also helping to assess the possible impact of another RWJF initiative, Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN). This initiative was established in 2005 to encourage nursing-education programs to improve teaching about quality improvement—a range of formal approaches to the analysis of patient-care quality and systematic efforts to improve it. In Dr. Kovner’s initial survey of 436 nurses, 38.6% thought that they were “poorly” or “very poorly” prepared about, or had “never heard of,” quality improvement. An article that she and her colleagues wrote, based on these survey results, was published in 2010 in The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety.

Now, Dr. Kovner says, the RWJF has done a lot of work to get people talking about quality, “so we want to see what the impact has been.” The National Council of State Boards of Nursing awarded Dr. Djukic a grant to compare nurses in the NLRN database from 15 states who passed the NCLEX-RN in 2004–5 with a cohort who graduated three years later to see whether the QSEN and other national initiatives were having a positive effect on NLRNs’ understanding of quality improvement and patient safety. The comparison data were collected from October to December of 2010, and publication of these data is expected in 2011.

Laura Wagner | Using Data to Improve Nursing Care Processes

The need for better data to improve patient care fuels the research of Laura Wagner, PhD, RN, assistant professor of nursing. Dr. Wagner is particularly interested in how incident reporting in nursing homes can be standardized and brought online to improve nursing care. Her PhD research was prompted in part by the 1999 IOM report, To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System. The report noted that better hospital reporting systems were needed to collect data on the causes of medical errors.

Around that time, Congress allocated $50 million to the National Institutes of Health to address the IOM recommendations. Dr. Wagner was enrolled in the PhD program at Emory University when the NIH funded the development of a center there for patient safety in nursing homes. She became a research assistant to Professor Elizabeth Capezuti, PhD, RN, FAAN, now the Dr. John W. Rowe Professor in Successful Aging and co-director of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at NYU College of Nursing, says that concerns about her own work conditions led her to this subject.

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Nursing, on her influential study on the dangers of hospital bed side-rails. Observing the impact of Dr. Capezuti’s research was pivotal for Dr. Wagner, convincing her that health services research could improve patient care.

For her dissertation research, Dr. Wagner applied the IOM recommendations for reducing hospital medical errors to the nursing home setting, where she developed a sophisticated computerized incident-reporting system that helps pinpoint where problems occur.

“Older residents of nursing homes often have multiple co-morbidities, and there are many system-level problems that increase their risk for falls, wandering, and infection-control issues,” Dr. Wagner says. “If we can collect better data, then we can use it to identify trends and problems and ultimately improve the quality of care.”

To take her research to the next stage, Dr. Wagner received an NIH R03 grant to survey U.S. nursing homes and state departments of health about their reporting systems. She found that few of these systems were computerized and that there was little analysis taking place at the state level to track adverse events.

Most nursing homes still use pen and ink to collect and analyze information, including serious incidents, Dr. Wagner notes. But hospitals that switch to the system she devised can make a large impact on their quality-improvement efforts. For example, one nursing home that used her system was able to draw a correlation between falls and restraint use, and used that information to better manage this problem.

“Every nursing home uses a different reporting system, and their legal obligation to report incidents is vague. They’re not doing a good job of collecting the information,” she says.

Dr. Wagner received the Springer Award in Geriatric Nursing, co-sponsored by the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing and Springer Publishing, in 2008, for her research into nursing home incident reporting. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has expressed interest in her results. Once a standardized reporting form is finalized, it will be the CMS’s job to guide nursing homes and state departments of health on its use.

Dr. Wagner serves on a U.S. expert panel with the National Quality Forum, which has produced a list of “never events” — serious, reportable events that take place in hospitals, such as mistakes made during surgery. She is one of six experts working to modify and expand that list to nursing homes.

Marie-Claire Rosenberg | Searching for Truths in National Databases

Like Drs. Wagner and Kovner, Dr. Rosenberg is using large national databases to get what she calls the “10,000-foot” view of the nursing profession. Dr. Rosenberg attended graduate school at Dartmouth College, where she had the opportunity to work with The Dartmouth Institute for Health Care Policy and Clinical Practice (TDI). TDI produces the widely cited Dartmouth Atlas Project, documenting variations in the distribution and use of medical resources throughout the United States. As a nurse, Dr. Rosenberg was intrigued by the potential to translate Dartmouth’s model to the nursing setting. She began her research career with a dissertation exploring patient outcomes in hospitals that are recognized by the Magnet Recognition Program® of the American Nurses Credentialing Center—a program that recognizes hospitals that meet a set of criteria for nursing excellence—with outcomes in non-Magnet hospitals.

Dr. Rosenberg chose to study outcomes of patients with specific diagnoses, in this case hip fracture and acute myocardial infarction, because medical treatment for these diagnoses varies little among geographic regions. Using data from Medicare Part A hospitalization claims, she compared patients with these diagnoses in more than 300 Magnet hospitals, which tend to be large, urban, academic facilities, with those in non-Magnet U.S. medical-surgical hospitals with comparable organizational characteristics. Of the five outcomes she examined, three—pressure ulcers, complications of post-operative infections, and deep-vein thrombosis/pulmonary emboli—have been identified by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as “nurse-sensitive”—meaning that these outcomes are related to the quality of nursing care and that nurses are held accountable to prevent these outcomes. The other two adverse events studied were in-hospital mortality and length of stay, both indicators of team and organizational quality.

Dr. Rosenberg’s research showed that, even with risk adjustment for patient and organizational characteristics, Magnet hospitals were not more likely to have better outcomes than non-Magnet hospitals. She acknowledges that Medicare data were not collected specifically to assess the quality of nursing care and as a result will always be a limited data source. But in light of the results of her study, she speculates that there is more work to be done.
done in linking the principles of Magnet recognition to patient outcomes.
“Magnet designation indicates that a hospital is trying to set a standard of nursing care, but we don’t understand well enough how that care differs from hospital to hospital, from unit to unit, and from nurse to nurse — and how these standards ultimately affect patient outcomes,” Dr. Rosenberg says.

She has presented this research at several national conferences, including that of the Magnet Recognition Program, where it was well received. “The Magnet Program is asking the same questions,” Dr. Rosenberg says, adding that NYU is steeped in this program and is trying to take it to a higher level.

Working with Dr. Elizabeth Capezuti and Marie Boltz, PhD ’07, RN, GNP-BC, Dr. Rosenberg is now building on her Magnet study to explore the impact of the national Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) program. Based at the College, NICHE seeks to improve nursing care of older adults. She received funding from the College’s Muriel and Virginia Pless Center for Nursing Research to conduct a study that will measure and evaluate patient outcomes in more than 300 NICHE hospitals.

Dr. Rosenberg also received a one-year fellowship from NYU Medical School’s Section on Value and Comparative Effectiveness. This year she is studying whether hospitals using the same UTI-prevention protocols obtain similar outcomes. She also hopes to begin to capture how protocols are translated into nursing care processes and whether there is variation in care processes between individual nurses, units, and hospitals that are significant enough to affect patient outcomes.

“Rather than just punish hospitals for adverse outcomes, I hope that we can develop more incentives to make sure that every patient consistently receives high-quality nursing care while in the hospital,” Dr. Rosenberg says.

**Allison Squires | Taking Health Services Research to an International Level**

Allison Squires, PhD, RN, assistant professor, is interested in the geographic distribution of nurses, their work environments, and their impact on patient outcomes. But her pioneering work is conducted on an international scale.

“The question of building health care workforce capacity is not just our issue,” Dr. Squires says. “It is one of the main policy aims of the World Health Organization.”

Dr. Squires is one of a small number of nurse researchers working in comparative international nursing. Her work addresses factors that influence the nursing profession in various countries, such as government structure, economy, education system, and regulatory issues. For the past several years, she has been involved in the RN4CAST study, which looks at working conditions for nurses in 11 European countries. One of the early lessons of that project was that researchers must validate survey instruments in every country in which they are used — even when the language stays the same — because cultural differences among countries can influence responses. Dr. Squires developed a standardized translation process, and she has since translated the survey instruments used by the Nurses Workforce Index — which enables U.S. nurses to assess their work environments — for adoption in Columbia, Mexico, Brazil, and Peru.

In 2010, Dr. Squires, working with Dr. Rosenberg, received an NYU Global Health Challenge Grant of $15,000 to analyze the workforce in the Hospital Metropolitano in Monterrey, Mexico, a public hospital serving low-income patients. The purpose of the study is to assess the linkages between staffing and patient outcomes in a developing country context where the roles of nurses are different from those in the United States. At the same time, Dr. Squires is conducting a pilot study in four sites in Mexico, for which she received a $5,000 grant from the Muriel and Virginia Pless Center for Nursing Research, to study the nurse work environment and patient safety. She is currently developing collaborative relationships with researchers at institutions in Monterrey, Oaxaca, San Luis Potosi, and Tampico.

Like Drs. Kovner, Djukic, Rosenberg, and Wagner, Dr. Squires has combined her own research with large, existing databases to analyze factors that influence the health workforce. With a student assistant, she built a database of information on levels of economic development, types of government, and other variables in many countries, culled from reliable websites, such as the World Bank, CIA country profiles, and the World Health Organization. She is now correlating those factors with the numbers of nurses and physicians in various countries to determine the conditions and factors that produce nursing personnel.

“We’re synthesizing publicly available information in a way that hasn’t been done before...” — Allison Squires

She notes that the same methodological techniques could be applied at the state or national level within the United States or to compare congressional districts. “Dr. Rosenberg’s experience working with the Dartmouth Health Atlas has been extremely helpful in this endeavor,” Dr. Squires says. ■
Undergraduate Nursing Students Are Integral Members of Geriatric Research Team

Not every undergraduate nursing student has the chance to work on important research, but for four lucky NYU students, a work-study opportunity is providing a window into the world of a researcher.

The students, Lucy Choy-Xiong ’12, Natacha Joseph ’11, Nirali Thakker ’11, and Caterina Zammit ’11, are working as data collectors for Marie Boltz, PhD ’07, RN, GNP-BC, and Elizabeth Capezuti, PhD, RN, FAAN, who are conducting research on nursing care and other factors related to physical function in hospitalized older adults. Working with patients over age 70 at NYU Langone Medical Center, the students explain the study, enroll pre-screened participants, and collect data to assess how hospital stays affect the physical function of older adults.

The four students spend 8 to 10 hours per week interviewing and observing patients, reviewing charts, and interviewing NYU Langone Medical Center staff. Data collection is aided by a cutting-edge technology called the Actigraph, an accelerometer used to measure physical activity. This pedometer-sized device measures changes in movement and energy expenditure. Students also assess balance, gait, muscle strength, and range of motion, and perform assessments of cognitive abilities. Preliminary data from this study—supported by the John A. Hartford Foundation—will be used to inform interventional research designed to prevent functional decline in hospitalized older adults.

My goal is for students to appreciate the science of geriatric nursing; the complexity of clinical presentation; and the importance of social support, interdisciplinary coordination, and long-range planning,” says Dr. Boltz. “We are trying to encourage students to consider research careers as well as to build the ranks of gerontological nurses, which are very low nationally.”

For the students, the opportunity enriches both the academic experience and their clinical abilities. For Natacha Joseph, an accelerated baccalaureate student who worked for 11 years as a lab technician in HIV research, the project is a natural fit. “We approach patients within 24 hours of admission, introducing ourselves, talking to them about the study, and seeing whether they’re interested in being a part of it. Usually they give me a funny look at first, but once I explain it to them, they invite me to sit down. They appreciate that research is being done and they want to contribute.”

Natacha, who has received scholarships from the New York Black Nurses Association, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Rudin Foundation, adds that the study has taught her to prioritize when working with patients. “We sometimes hear from patients that they want the nurses to spend more time with them. That’s one of the challenges I’m keeping in mind for when I become a nurse.”

Caterina Zammit, a Rudin Scholar and accelerated baccalaureate student with five years of laboratory and clinical research experience, says, “This project has taught me how to better communicate with patients and about the changes that older adults experience. For those in recovery from surgery, I have definitely noticed a decline in their ability to get out of bed.”

Lucy Choy-Xiong, a part-time student in the BS program, had not participated in research previously and is glad to have additional clinical experience with patients. She says the study has helped her become more independent in her interactions with patients while teaching her a great deal about data collection.

“When I ask patients whether they want to be part of the study, many of them start by saying that they would not be good candidates. As researchers, we have to have people skills to present the study in a positive way. When patients tell me that they didn’t move much even before their hospital stay, it gives me an opportunity to explain that they can ask a nurse to walk with them; that they will heal faster if they move.”

Dr. Boltz agrees that engaging as a researcher with both patients and hospital staff requires clinical and communication abilities. “We interviewed these students and selected those who had the right skills,” she says. “It can be surprising to find this level of skill in undergrads, but NYU students tend to be very sophisticated in their knowledge and ability to interact with patients.”

Nirali Thakker, also a traditional BS student, applied for the data-collection job because research, she says, “is such an integral part of what our career should be. It’s our duty as nurses to understand what we’re practicing, and the best way to do it is through research.” Nirali says the project has exceeded her expectations. “I learned so much about working with older patients and using evidence-based tools. Ordinarily you wouldn’t have these amazing opportunities as an undergraduate.”
Alumni Day  
October 23, 2010

A. Christine Kovner, PhD ’85 (left), the 2010 Faculty Scholar Award recipient and Alumni Day speaker, with Dean Terry Fulmer and Vernice Ferguson, BS ’50, who sponsors the annual Vernice Ferguson Lecture on Contemporary Issues.

B. From left: Codi-Ann Dyer, BS ’10; Tim Shi ’12, student speaker; Norman Volk, NYU College of Nursing Board of Advisors member and chairman of the Hartford Foundation Board of Trustees; and Todd Piorier, BS ’06, president, Sigma Theta Tau International, Upsilon chapter.

Valedictory Breakfast  
December 14, 2010

C. Michael Fuoco, BS ’11, recites the professional nursing pledge with his classmates, the January 2011 graduates of NYU College of Nursing.

American Academy of Nursing Annual Conference  
November 12, 2010

D. Congratulations to our colleagues and alumni on their induction into the American Academy of Nursing! Dean Terry Fulmer and Courtney Lyder greet guests at the NYU College of Nursing and UCLA School of Nursing reception in honor of new Fellows of the Academy. Dr. Lyder is the dean and a professor at UCLA School of Nursing, as well as the assistant director for academic nursing in the UCLA Health System.

E. Dean Terry Fulmer (second from right) with College of Nursing faculty members who were inducted into the Academy in 2010, from left, Ann Kurth, Eloise Cathcart, and Wendy Budin PhD ’96.
Celebration of Nursing Excellence

November 4, 2010

H College of Nursing students, from left, Michael Chung ’11, Richard Sterry ’11, and Melissa Dufault ’11 discuss quality and safety in health care with Maes-MacInnes Award recipient Linda Cronenwett, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and dean emerita of the School of Nursing, UNC at Chapel Hill, and Margaret McClure, EdD, RN, FAAN, former chief nursing officer at NYU Medical Center.

I Dean Terry Fulmer (second from left) with honored award recipients and panel members, from left, Marianne Bradley; Gail D’Eramo Melkus; Linda Cronenwett; Madeleine Lloyed, ACDRT ’04; Cathryne A. Welch; Edwidge J. Thomas; and Elizabeth McCormick.

Estelle Osborne Recognition Ceremony

February 15, 2011

F From left: Yvonne Wesley, PhD ’00, Lynn R. Parker, MA ’99; Edwidge J. Thomas, and Dean Terry Fulmer.

G Past Estelle Osborne Award recipients at this year’s ceremony: top row, from left: Yvonne Wesley, PhD ’00; Gloria Chandler Ramsey, MA ’87, BS ’83; middle row: Janice M. Gray, Arts & Science PhD ’80, MA ’58; Tavoria R. Kellam, BS ‘98; Lynn R. Parker, MA ’99; Kathleen Parisien, MA ’04, BS ’98; Cynthia Degazon, PhD ’87, MA ’72; bottom row: Blanche Jordan, MA ’50, BS ’45; Daisy Poole McFadden, MA ’55, BS ’51; Phyllis Jenkins, MA ’69; and Ione Taylor Carey.

NYU Wellness Expo

October 14, 2010

J College of Nursing student Tracy Penafior, BS ’10; Asha Isable, MD, NYU Student Health Center; and Laraine Chiu ’11, emphasize the importance of washing hands to prevent the spread of viral and bacterial infections.
Five years have passed since the death of Dr. Florence Downs, and we at the College of Nursing want to take a moment to honor her memory. In addition to her pioneering work promoting nurses’ contribution to research, Florence Downs, EdD ’64, FAAN, was an avid gardener, with a special passion for perennials. Like beautiful flowers that bloom year after year, this legendary nurse and educator’s accomplishments continue to live on at the College of Nursing even after her death.

After Dr. Downs retired from the University of Pennsylvania in 1994, we convinced her to return to NYU. She had been instrumental in the formation and development of the nursing research doctoral program at NYU several decades earlier, and in the last years of her career she served here as a visiting professor, mentoring faculty and numerous PhD candidates in nursing. Currently under the direction of Deborah Chyun, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN, the NYU College of Nursing PhD program prepares nurse scientists to be leaders in evidence-based scientific research environments.

Dr. Downs wrote countless books, articles, and editorials, and served for 17 years as the first academic editor of the renowned scholarly journal Nursing Research. She never forgot that the main goal of her chosen profession was to help those in need of care. Her passion for nursing research was so profound that when she died in 2005 at the age of 80, Dr. Downs left funds in her will to endow the Florence and William Downs Professor of Nursing Research at NYU College of Nursing. The holder of the chair, she wrote, “shall be a member of the faculty who engages principally in scientific research related to health and nursing, and who actively engages in transmitting the results of such research to the students and the general public.” Gail D’Eramo Melkus, EdD, C-NP, FAAN, currently holds the chair, and Florence would have approved! Dr. Downs died only a few weeks after we moved from divisional status to a College. “She was thrilled about it,” recalls Dean Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN. “Florence set a standard for excellence and was a beloved icon in nursing.”

—Dean Terry Fulmer

NYU College of Nursing Professor Madeline Naegle, PhD ’80, MA ’67, APRN-BC, FAAN, took a class on writing a dissertation proposal with Dr. Downs at NYU in the 1970s. She says, “Dr. Downs’ standard remains a high one for nursing research and remains something for us to aspire to.” Dr. Naegle is just one among many students of Dr. Downs who went on to distinguished careers of their own. The wit and wisdom that Dr. Downs exuded continues to inspire and influence them all.

Those who knew Dr. Downs say she was a quintessential New Yorker. Sharp and funny, she could be both a tough and witty critic. But she also had an underlying warmth and aided numerous students and faculty with their own research.
Health Care on Wheels

MAJOR GRANT EXPANDS COLLEGE’S MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES

The NYU College of Nursing mobile health van project, “Feeling Good in Your Neighborhood,” fills a critical gap by bringing school-based primary care to Brooklyn adolescents, many of whom are recent immigrants who have unmet health care needs. On November 10, 2010, Dean Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, and New York City Councilwoman Letitia James cut a ribbon to celebrate a significant expansion of the project.

The van, a 40-foot vehicle with two exam rooms, was launched in 2008 but received a hearty boost of support in 2010 with a $2.9 million five-year grant to Judith Haber, PhD ’84, MA ’67, APRN, BC, FAAN, from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place at the International High School of Prospect Heights, which the van has been visiting for two years, and Brooklyn School for Music and Theater, which just began receiving services. The van also visits the Brooklyn International High School and Urban Assembly of Music and Arts in Fort Greene.

Care will be extended to six additional sites by the end of 2012, to assist approximately 13,000 students. A social worker, Audrey Neff, MSW, addresses patients’ psychosocial issues and enrolls eligible students in Medicaid and other health plans.

The “Feeling Good” project was created by Dr. Haber, who is the Ursula Springer Leadership Professor in Nursing and associate dean of graduate programs, and is directed by Edwidge J. Thomas, DNP, MS, ANP-BC, director of clinical practice affairs. It is staffed by Lauren McTeague, MSN, FNP-BC, director of clinical services, and Elizabeth Jones, BS ’06, RN, nurse coordinator. Parent coordinators in the schools serve as liaisons between student families and van staff.

Dr. Thomas says, “The motto of the mobile van is ‘Set Up, Catch Up, Hook Up,’ a slogan that refers to taking a student’s medical history and setting health care priorities, catching up on outstanding health needs, and linking students to services such as insurance enrollment, connection to a primary care medical home, and referrals to community resources.”

This past winter, the van’s nursing staff began providing reproductive health services and education. In addition, helping students build health literacy—including understanding their health care rights—is a goal of the program. The van also provides clinical practicum experiences for undergraduate and graduate nursing students, who develop their primary care and community nursing competencies by working with young people from diverse cultures.

Nedda DeCastro, principal of the International High School of Prospect Heights—where all students are recent immigrants—says that one of the best things about the service is that students receive health care without missing school, and parents do not need to miss work.

Marissa Felder, parent coordinator at the Brooklyn School for Music and Theater, adds that these services are particularly important for students with reproductive health concerns who are scared and do not know where to turn for help. “We want to refer them to a place they trust, that will maintain their privacy, and that makes their parents—many of whom are immigrants and uninsured—comfortable,” she says.

Catching Up on Needed Health Care

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Dr. Haber said, “These high school students will be making their own health care decisions soon. Our goal is to launch the next generation of informed health care consumers in New York City.”

“This is so extraordinarily important,” Dean Terry Fulmer said. “The health of our nation depends on the health of our children. Our commitment to them is access to quality health care.”

Letitia James, councilwoman for the 35th district, which includes the Prospect Heights Campus, thanked Principals Pamela Taranto of the Brooklyn International High School and Pamela Randazzo of the Brooklyn School of Music and Theater for having the vision to bring the van to their students.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Kiara Paredes, a student at International High School of Prospect Heights, said, “I just want to thank the van because it has helped me a lot. They asked if I had questions; they gave me the physical and the shots that I had never received. They didn’t just give me a paper to read. They gave it to me in Spanish and made sure I understood it.”

Cutting the ribbon, from left: high school student Kiara Paredes, New York State Senator Eric Adams; New York City Councilwoman Letitia James; Dean Terry Fulmer, Associate Dean Judith Haber, and high school student Jessica Pierre.
College News

National Research Council Gives Nursing PhD Program a Top Rating

The National Research Council: Data-Based Assessment of Research Doctoral Programs ranked NYU as the 7th top nursing program out of 52 programs evaluated during 2010.

Simulation Teaching Model Receives RWJF Support

Hila Richardson, DrPH, RN, FAAN, clinical professor and associate dean for the undergraduate program, has been awarded a $300,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s national program Evaluating Innovations in Nursing. Mattia Gilmartin, PhD, MSN, MBA, research scientist, is deputy director for the grant, which is one of seven awarded to schools of nursing through this highly competitive national program.

The RWJF-funded project will evaluate the efficacy of on-campus teaching in a simulation laboratory, such as the College of Nursing’s state-of-the-art Clinical Simulation Learning Center (CSLC), compared to teaching in off-campus clinical settings. The CSLC is equipped with life-sized mannequins and equipment to simulate clinical experiences that students would have in off-campus clinical settings.

According to Dr. Richardson, on-campus clinical simulation settings have the potential to improve teaching capacity over the traditional off-campus clinical teaching model, while maintaining excellent student outcomes. In simulation sessions, students have intensive hands-on clinical experiences, some of which they might not have in the hospital—in a safe learning environment without concern for harming patients. This educational strategy, widely used in the health professions, helps students feel more competent in actual clinical settings.

Leadership Expert Frances Hesselbein Addresses DNP Students

Frances Hesselbein, one of the foremost global experts in the field of leadership, visited a doctor of nursing practice (DNP) class taught on November 21, 2010, by Tara Cortes, PhD ’76, MA ’71, RN, FAAN, executive director of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing. Mrs. Hesselbein is president and CEO of the Leader to Leader Institute and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States’ highest civilian honor. The award recognized her leadership as CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA from 1976 to 1990 and her pioneering work on behalf of women, volunteerism, diversity, and opportunity.

During the conversation with DNP students, Mrs. Hesselbein drew on her 24 years of experience as chief executive officer of the Girl Scouts of the USA, where she modernized the organization and vastly increased its diversity.

“Frances emphasized that our times demand the courage to lead,” says Dr. Cortes. “To her, leadership is not a title. It is about being at the center of an organization, not at the top.”

Mrs. Hesselbein promotes a philosophy of organizational management in which people work in concentric circles—not hierarchies—and everyone is empowered to do their work. “I think she further instilled in our students the need for inclusiveness, diversity, and respect,” Dr. Cortes says.

Sue Renz, MS, RN, GNP-BC, a student in the DNP program who attended the talk...
says, “When I look to my future, I can see more clearly that being a good leader means building on others’ strengths, which is so important in nursing.”

Breast Cancer Walk Draws Campus-Wide Participation

The sea of purple was impossible to miss on the five-mile Central Park walk on October 17, 2010, when 50 College of Nursing students joined in the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk.

“This walk pulls the College of Nursing together. It is the largest community-service event that we rally around,” says Gail Wolfmeyer, Steinhardt MA ’10, assistant director for graduate student affairs and admissions, who serves as the team captain.

College of Nursing students have raised a combined total of $21,679 since they began participating in this walk, including more than $6,000 this year, by passing donation baskets in class, holding bake sales, and conducting raffles. Student organization presidents have taken on leadership of the event, and this year, student groups reached out to faculty and administration members.

The walk is one of the year’s most important events for the Undergraduate Nursing Student Organization (UNSO), whose president, Tim Shi ’12, participated for the third year in a row.

“I wore my scrubs, and it definitely shows your NYU spirit and that you’re a nurse,” Tim says. “A lot of people came up to talk to me, and they all knew someone from NYU. Everyone knows the purple scrubs!”

Lisa Gallup, MS ’12, RN, president of the Advanced Nursing Student Organization (ANSO), and other students organized graduate student participation. Lisa says that donating funds can be challenging for graduate students, but many were motivated by the success of the event to give and build toward the event next year. “Seeing how successful and fun it was, I’ll promote it even more next year,” she adds.

NYU Midwifery Program Reaccredited

The College of Nursing Master’s Nurse-Midwifery program was reaccredited for 10 years in January 2011 by the Board of Review of the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education. Since its inception in 1994, the Nurse-Midwifery program has been commended for its contributions to the education of nurse-midwives and for its continuous service to women, babies, and families in the New York metropolitan area.

Since Julia Lange Kessler MS, CM, BS ’10, RN, IBCLC, assumed its leadership in 2008, the program has grown, tripling in size. Ms. Kessler credits this expansion to the quality of the program and a surging interest among students in serving the health care needs of women throughout the lifespan.

“People are discovering that certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives care for women of all ages, offering full-scope gynecological and primary care, as well as prenatal care, attending women during childbirth, newborn care, and then continuing through menopause,” observes Ms. Kessler. “Midwifery is an increasingly important component in our modern-day health care system.”

Upsilon Is Turning 50!

The Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Upsilon chapter at NYU College of Nursing is turning 50! On October 19, 2011, the chapter will celebrate its anniversary, recognizing the professional accomplishments of members in an evening of speakers, presentations, and fellowship. STTI’s president, Karen Morin RN, DSN, ANEF, will be the keynote speaker. Members are encouraged to contact the chapter now if they have photos, memorabilia and/or stories to share on this exciting evening. Upsilon’s collection of memorabilia will be on display during the celebration.

Invitations and further information will be sent out soon, so please check the STTI website to make sure your e-mail and street address are on file.

Members of the NYU community who belong to STTI but are not members of the Upsilon chapter are encouraged to affiliate with Upsilon through a dual membership and/or by changing their primary chapter to Upsilon.

For more information, please write to: nyu.upsilon@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 50th Anniversary or at one of our other exciting events! Please visit nyu.edu/nursing/centers/stti/index.html for further information.
Faculty News

Welcome New Faculty!

The College of Nursing is proud to announce the following full-time faculty members:

**Ab Brody, PhD, GNP-BC**, assistant professor, joins the College of Nursing from the University of California, San Francisco. His current research examines the effects on patient and health services outcomes of training home health care providers in geriatric symptom management.

**Karyn Boyar, MSN, APRN-BC**, clinical instructor, who joins the College of Nursing from Long Island College Hospital School of Nursing, is a family nurse practitioner specializing in elder care and movement disorders. She has researched implications of a hyperketogenic diet on people with Parkinson’s disease and has conducted numerous clinical trials as an investigator and coordinator.

**Susan Burger, PhD, RN**, clinical assistant professor, joins the College of Nursing from Sacred Heart University Department of Nursing and has expertise in community/public health nursing. Her scholarship has focused on developing evidence-based policies and practices that enable individuals to live long, healthy lives or manage chronic illness at home.

**Chuck Cleland, PhD**, adjunct associate professor, joins the College of Nursing from the New School for Social Research. He is a quantitative psychologist and biostatistician who applies multilevel modeling, meta-analysis, and respondent-driven sampling to pursue substantive research interests in the areas of substance use and infectious disease.

**Maja Djukic, PhD ’09, RN**, assistant professor, was a Mary Clark Rockefeller Doctoral Fellow at NYU. Her research focuses on the social and physical aspects of nurses’ work environments and the quality and safety of patient care delivery.

**Michelle Eaton, DNP, APRN**, clinical instructor, joins the College of Nursing from Olympic Medical Center, Washington, and teaches community health nursing and fundamentals of nursing. Her expertise includes community health systems and transcultural nursing, and her areas of research focus on culturally competent work environments for foreign-born and minority nurses.

**Mattia Gilmartin, PhD, MSN, MBA, RN**, senior research scientist, joins the College of Nursing from Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing and will serve as deputy director for the evaluation of the RWJF-funded Clinical Simulation/Clinical Experience model, directing the Center for Continuing Education in Nursing and leading the development of an undergraduate nursing honors program.

**Susan Lombardo, PhD, RN**, clinical associate professor, joins the College of Nursing from the State University of New York at Buffalo and has expertise in teaching community health nursing at the undergraduate level. Her research interests include urinary incontinence in postmenopausal community-dwelling women.

**Marsha Marecki, EdD, RNC, WHNP-C**, associate professor, joins the College of Nursing from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Nursing, where she was the director/coordinator of the Maternal-Women’s Graduate Nurse Practitioner Program. A women’s health nurse practitioner, she has collaborated with Dr. Susan Lombardo on research into urinary incontinence in postmenopausal women.

**James Pace, DSN, MDiv, APRN-BC, FAANP**, clinical associate professor, joins the College of Nursing from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. He has taught adult nurse practitioner students and has authored numerous publications and book chapters in the palliative care area. His research and scholarly activities lie in the areas of spirituality/religion and health, palliative/hospice care, and the care of HIV/AIDS populations.
Karen J. Smith, MSN, APRN, NP-C, clinical instructor, joins the College of Nursing from Villanova University. She is a former vice president of patient care services who developed three nurse-managed rural health clinics in northeastern Pennsylvania. Her research interests include health promotion and prevention, chronic disease management, and nursing leadership.

Leslie-Faith Morritt Taub, DNSc, ANP-C, GNP-BC, CDE, C. BSM, clinical associate professor, joins the College of Nursing from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and coordinates the Geriatric and Adult/Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Program. She is board certified as an adult and gerontologic nurse practitioner, is nationally certified as a diabetes educator, and is the second registered nurse in the country to hold certification in nurse education category at the 35th Annual National Association of Hispanic Nurses Conference, July 22–24, 2010, in Washington, DC. Her presentation addressed the Nursing Bound educational and outreach program to increase interest in nursing among New York City public school students.

Joyce Anastasi, PhD, DrNP, FAAN, LAc, received the 2011 Eastern Nursing Research Society Distinguished Nurse Researcher Award on March 25, 2011. A book coauthored by Carolyn Auerhahn, EdD, ANP, GNP-BC, FAANP, senior research scientist, Integrating Gerontological Content into Advanced Practice Nursing Education, published by Springer Publishing Co. (2010), won an American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award. Dr. Auerhahn was formerly the program coordinator of the Geriatric and Adult/Geriatric NP Master’s and Advanced Certificate programs.

Ab Brody, RN, PhD, GNP-BC, assistant professor, was named a Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association 2010 Research Scholar.

An article coauthored by Wendy Budin, PhD ’96, RN-BC, FAAN, professor of nursing and director of nursing research at NYU Langone Medical Center, and Judith Haber, PhD ’84, MA ’67, APRN, BC, FAAN, associate dean of graduate programs, published in the May/June 2008 issue of Nursing Research, “Breast Cancer: Education, Counseling, and Adjustment among Patients and Partners: A Randomized Clinical Trial,” was recognized as one of the 25 most frequently viewed articles in Nursing Research on OVID.

Michele Crespo-Fierro, MS, BS ’90, MPH, AACRN, adjunct clinical instructor, and her team were awarded second prize for their poster presentation in the education category at the 35th Annual National Association of Hispanic Nurses Conference, July 22–24, 2010, in Washington, DC. Her presentation addressed the Nursing Bound educational and outreach program to increase interest in nursing among New York City public school students.


Emerson Ea, DNP, APRN, BC, CEN, clinical assistant professor, is principal investigator on a one-year grant from the NYU-HHC Clinical and Translational Science Institute for “Pilot Research Project on Levels of Acculturation, Stress, and Well-Being and Cardiovascular Health among Filipino Immigrant RNs and Domestic and Home Care Workers in New York.”

Mei R. Fu, PhD, RN, was elected in October 2010 to the position of president of the Chinese American Nurses Association. In September, Dr. Fu was elected to the board of directors of the Lymphology Association of North America. Dr. Fu was also appointed to two-year terms for three bodies of the Oncology Nursing Society: as a council member of the Council for Special Interest Groups, editor of its Lymphedema Management Special Interest Group newsletters, and contributor to its publication Putting Evidence into Practice: Lymphedema Management. Dr. Fu was also appointed in January [continued on next page]
As Dr. Hutchinson told Time, “[The young women] felt that if they could have been more comfortable talking with their fathers about issues around sex, they might have been more comfortable talking to boyfriends or potential sexual partners about them.”

On March 25, 2011, Dr. Hutchinson received the 2011 Eastern Nursing Research Society Suzanne Feetham Family Nurse Scientist Research Award. She and Nancy Van Devanter, DrPH, RN, were awarded support from NYU’s CFAR Center for AIDS Research for “A Pilot Study to Assess Feasibility for Integration of Saliva Screening for Antibodies to HIV-1/HIV-2 into NYUCD Dental Clinics.”

Julia Lange Kessler, MS, CM, BS ’10, RN, IBCLC, program coordinator of the Nurse-Midwifery Master’s and Advanced Certificate Programs, was honored by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) with the 2010 Donald P. Kent Award from the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Nominated by Dean Terry Fulmer, Dr. Kessler is a co-investigator of a new NIH R21 grant, “Evaluation of Antiretroviral HIV Prevention in African HIV Discordant Couples in Kenya.” She is also a co-investigator on a new NIH Director’s Award R01 grant titled “Home-Based HIV Counseling and Testing ‘HBCT Plus.’” This project seeks to enhance home-based counseling and services for HIV positive people in 5,000 households in rural Uganda. Dr. Kurth is also developing ART and counseling-intervention content to help reduce HIV transmission for an NIH/NIAID R01 study, “Multi-Component, Targeted HIV Prevention in Sub-Saharan Africa: Prevention RX,” in which Ugandan households are evaluating systems to increase care links for HIV-positive people.

Mathy Mezey EdD, RN, FAAN, associate director of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, was awarded the prestigious 2010 Donald P. Kent Award from the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Nominated by Dean Terry Fulmer, Dr. Mezey is the first nurse to receive the award, which is given annually to a GSA member who best exemplifies the highest standards for professional leadership in gerontology through teaching, service, and interpretation of gerontology to the larger society.
Selected Faculty and Research Scientist Publications

Joyce Anastasi


Marie Boltz


Boltz, M., Capezuti, E., Shababhat, N., & Hall, K. (2010). Going home better not worse: Older adults’ views on physical function during hospitalization. *International Journal of Nursing Practice*, 16(4), 381–388. PMID: 20649670. This paper won the Springer Publisher Geriatric/Gerontologic Nursing Award.

Elizabeth Capezuti

Chuck Cleland

Sherry Deren

Maja Djukic

Emerson Ea

Drs. Sherry Deren and Holly Hagan are the editors of a special issue of Substance Use & Misuse, published in February 2011, titled “The New York HIV-Drug-Use Epidemic: Lessons Learned and Unresolved Issues.” Of the 19 papers included, five have authors from the College of Nursing:


[continued on next page]
NYU Nursing Faculty Practice


DID YOU KNOW...

NYU nurse practitioners can serve as your primary health care providers and offer a wide range of primary care services, including:

- diagnosing and treating infections and injuries
- diagnosing, treating, and monitoring chronic diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and asthma
- ordering, performing, and interpreting diagnostic tests such as lab work and X-rays
- prescribing medications and adjusting medication regimens

- health maintenance care for adults, including annual physicals
- well-woman exams, including PAP smears, contraception, and testing for sexually transmitted diseases
- routine immunizations, including flu shots
- mental health assessment and support for conditions such as anxiety, depression, and stress
- educational programs and services on topics such as weight management, exercise, nutrition, and smoking cessation
- travel health consultation and immunizations

Suite 1B
At the NYU College of Dentistry

NYU College of Dentistry

Michele Shedlin


Allison Squires


Shiela Strauss


Leslie - Faith Morritt Taub


Janet Van Cleave


Nancy Van Devanter


Graduate Student Achievements

The American Nurses Foundation named NYU College of Nursing PhD student Tanya Smith, MS, FNP, RN, the 2010 Mary Elizabeth Carnegie Scholar. This distinction includes a $3,500 research grant for Tanya’s pilot study “Sexual Protective Strategies and Condom Use among Older African American Women.”

PhD student and principal investigator Kimberly Hall Souffront, MSN, FNP-BC, with the guidance and mentorship of Associate Professor Deborah Chyun, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN, received a National Research Service Award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for her doctoral work and dissertation project “Barriers to Referral for Elevated Blood Pressure in the Emergency Department Institution.”

Graduate Student Achievements

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New York State Nurses Association President Karen A. Ballard, MA ’68, RN, FAAN, has been appointed to Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Medicaid Redesign Team, a group charged with finding ways to save money within the Medicaid program for the 2011–12 fiscal year.

Jane Jeffrie Seley, DNP, BSN ’76, Steinhardt MPH ’92, BC-ADM, CDE, a diabetes nurse practitioner at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, won the New York Times Tribute to Nurses Innovation Award on December 5, 2010. Dr. Seley was recognized for her innovative work in the field of diabetes locally and nationally. In 2010, she completed a DNP degree at SUNY Stony Brook School of Nursing.

Dianne Moore, PhD ’81, MPH, CNM, RN, is the founding dean of nursing and the first dean for the College of Nursing at West Coast University. She developed this nursing program in 2004 in the greater Los Angeles area and received approval by the Board of Registered Nursing. The university now enrolls almost 3,000 nursing students, and the BSN program is CCNE accredited. During fall 2010, a graduate program was launched, and Dr. Moore was promoted to associate provost for nursing education and regulatory affairs.

Harriet R. Feldman, PhD ’84, RN, FAAN, dean and professor in the Lienhard School of Nursing at Pace University since 1993, has been named the interim provost of Pace, after serving as interim dean of the School of Education. Harriet brings superior management and leadership
experience, as well as a deep commitment to furthering academic excellence and scholarship at the University,” said Pace University President Stephen J. Friedman. Dr. Feldman has testified before Congress and written numerous books and articles related to nursing policy.

1985

Daphne Ridley, MA ’85, a nurse manager for orthopedics at Beth Israel Medical Center, Petrie Division, and adjunct faculty member at NYU College of Nursing, received the 2010 What a Wonderful World Award from The Louis Armstrong Center for Music and Medicine at Beth Israel on September 20, 2010. Ms. Ridley has been a nurse for more than 40 years and was a 2006 Fellow of the NYU College of Nursing Leadership Institute for Black Nurses.

2004

Rebecca Feldman, BS ’04, RN, CNM, MSN, is a certified nurse-midwife at Brookdale Medical Center in Brooklyn, where she is also a member of the National Health Service Corps. Last summer, Ms. Feldman and fellow NYU alumna Paulomi “Mimi” Niles, BS ’04, traveled to Haiti to volunteer with Midwives for Haiti. She is a clinical faculty member for the College of Nursing Maternity Nursing course.

2006

Patricia A. Cholewka, EdD, Wagner MPA ’87, MA ’06, RN-BC, assistant professor of nursing at New York City College of Technology, is project director of a new, two-year policy-oriented measure titled “Integrating Self-Management and Palliation Concepts (IMPACT): Health Policy and Nursing Education Implications.” This project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, aims to discover and technologically disseminate best practices in palliative care and self-management nursing education in the United States and in the European Union.

2007

Lauren E. Danforth, BS ’07, CCRN, began the new graduate nursing program at Children’s Hospital Boston in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. She has become CCRN certified and has advanced to become a level II staff nurse.

Emily Ferguson, BS ’07, has been working as a registered nurse on a thoracic surgical/medical floor at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 2010, she traveled twice to Haiti with a group from MGH, partnering with Project Hope. Following the earthquake, she spent two weeks aboard the USNS Comfort ship. She traveled again to Haiti in October, working for two weeks at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital during the cholera outbreak.

2008

Kristi (Lamb) Mackay, BS ’08, worked until recently in the Emergency Department at Johns Hopkins Hospital. After getting married this year, she moved to Boston to work in the Emergency Department at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Denise Taylor-Carey, BS ’09, was named director of nursing at Bethel Nursing Home and Hospice in Ossining, New York, in December 2010.

2009

Epifania Quimson, MS ’10, RN, has accepted the position of director of nursing education and practice at New York Downtown Hospital.

In Memoriam

The College of Nursing mourns the loss of Ildaura Murillo-Rohde, PhD ’71, RN, FAAN, who died in her native country, Panama, on September 5, 2010, just one day shy of her 90th birthday. Dr. Murillo-Rohde was deeply dedicated to improving the lives of Latino populations. She was the first Latino nurse to receive a PhD from NYU and went on to become a founder of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses. Dr. Murillo-Rohde received the College of Nursing Distinguished Alumna Award at graduation in 1989 in recognition of her advocacy of human rights and betterment of communities. Michele Crespo-Fierro, BS ’90, MS, MPH, AACRN, adjunct clinical instructor, represented the College at Dr. Murillo-Rohde’s memorial service and noted that “her dedication to the nursing profession touched the lives of many patients and the professionals who benefited from her activism and wisdom.”
NYU COLLEGE OF NURSING would like to Join the Dean’s Circle!

After immigrating to New York City from Kingston, Jamaica, at the age of seven, I entered the New York City public school system and worked diligently, aspiring one day to be the first person in my family to attain a college education. My mother, a single parent, constantly struggled and made sacrifices to ensure that my siblings and I were never in need. Education has always been one of my strongest family values.

When I began applying to become an undergraduate student, New York University was my ideal school; however, I was not admitted at first. This “rejection” motivated me academically and socially to excel at the institution I initially attended in hopes of transferring to NYU College of Nursing, where I knew I was destined to be. In 2005, I was ready to begin my nursing studies, and, through faith and tenacity, I was accepted and given several scholarships that enabled me to attend.

Of all the wonderful characteristics of the College of Nursing, one thing that stands out is that so many scholarship opportunities are available. The scholarships I received allowed me to give up my part-time job to focus on my nursing studies, to take advantage of a life-changing study-abroad opportunity in Buenos Aires, to become the public relations director of our Undergraduate Nursing Student Organization, to participate as a mentee of the Robert Wood Johnson Nursing Administration Mentorship Program, to develop innovative solutions to emerging needs in health care. We need your support to ensure that outstanding nursing students will be able to enroll in and graduate from NYU College of Nursing.

Dean’s Circle members join Dean Terry Fulmer as honored guests at the annual Dean’s Luncheon and other special College events throughout the year.

To join the Dean’s Circle or for more information, please contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 212-992-8380 or visit www.nyu.edu/nursing to make a donation online.

Join the Dean’s Circle!

NYU COLLEGE OF NURSING would like to thank the members of the Dean’s Circle, who generously support the College in its commitment to excellence in nursing education, practice, and research with annual gifts of $1,000 or more.

These gifts provide financial assistance for students, enable the College to recruit distinguished faculty, and allow us to develop innovative solutions to emerging needs in health care. We need your support to ensure that outstanding nursing students will be able to enroll in and graduate from NYU College of Nursing.

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I am grateful to the selfless and dedicated scholarship-fund donors, and most importantly, to my deans, professors, and mentors, who never stopped supporting me. As a proud alumnus of NYU College of Nursing, I will continue to give to the College to support efforts to provide students with excellent nursing education and help name the Alumni Association Lecture Hall in the new building.

WHY I GIVE: CODI-ANN DYER

Codi-Ann Dyer graduated from the College of Nursing in May 2010 and is currently working as a registered nurse at New-York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, on the Postpartum and Continuing Care Nursery Unit. She recently became a member of the College’s Dean’s Circle.

Dean’s Circle Members (as of February 2011)

Anonymous
Ellen D. & Henry P. Baer
Karen A. Ballard
Marion & Stanley Bergman
Amy J. Berman
Regina S. Berman
Henrietta Blackman
Rose Boroch
Susan L. Bowar-Ferres
Mary Brennan
Wendy Budin
Robert & Paula Butler
Barbara Galabrese
Marilyn Gane
Tara A. & Luis Cortes
Janet Salerno D’Aranganelo
Glen & Julie Davidson
Joyce C. Delacar
Nancy DeMatteis
Maria Dolce
Godi Ann Dyer
Claire M. & Samuel L. Fugin
Geraldene Felton
Vernice D. Ferguson
Eva Mallis Fisher
Patricia Forry
Catherine Taylor Foster
Terry & Keith Fulmer
Bertie M. Gilmore
Evelynn Clark Giusella
Robert J. & Mary McNena Guffra
Kimberly Glassman
Elizabeth W. Gonnauel
Beatrice Goodwin
Elaine & David Gould
Valerie K. & James M. Grabicki
Jocelyn A. Greenidge
Judith E. & Leonard Huber
Marlyn J. Hammer
Stacey C. Harley
Eileen G. Hasselmeyer
Eliana Horta
Carol N. Huskins
Patricia Morgan Hurley
Barbara D. & Donald Jonas
Blanche T. Jordan
Mildred Joyner
Kenneth W. M. Judy
Shake Ketefian
Mary Theresa Khady
Pamela P. & Robert A. Kindler
Penelope & Robert E. Klatell
David J. Knight & Joseph P. Colagreco
Christine & Anthony R. Kovner
Mary Krugman
Ian Laird
Eri Leddy
Lois G. & David W. Leeds
Anthony J. Leiker
Helaine H. Lerner
Naomi B. Levine
Li Hung Lin
Grace A. & Charles S. Lipson
Barrie Loeks
Diane J. Mancino
Wilhelmina M. Mannano
Robin Marino
Gean M. Mathwig
Donna McCabe & Michael Regan
Margaret L. McGree
Daisy Poole Mcduffin
Deborah McKeever
Red McRa
Matby & Andrew P. Mezey
Madeline A. Nagle
Josephine Nappi
Donna M. Nickitas
Kate S. & Robert H. Niehaus
Sarah B. Pasterneck
Robert V. Pinmonte
Todd Porier
Muriel Pless
Linda Farber Post
Carol Raphael
Joan Rechut
Hila Richardson
Rachel A. Robinson
Paulette Bobiscon
June Rotthberg-Blackman
John W. & Valerie Rowe
Caroline S. Ruda
Jack Rudin
Edith Schmitt
Sara Lee Schulf
Marie Schwartz
Susan Schwartzman
Richard & Sarah Schwartzstein
Cynthia D. & Thomas P. Sculte
Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko
Patricia Small
Valerie M. & Joseph P. Smokovich
Estelle Sotirhos
Ursuma Springer
Joan K. Stout
Neville E. Strumuf
Patricia L. Valos
Norman H. & Alicia Volc
Anastasia P. Vournas
Lisa Wagner
Rosanne L. Wille
Phillip Joseph Wolf
Geri Lo Bondo Wood
Paula Zahn

Errata: Ann Marie and Tony Mauro are Dean’s Circle members, but were mistakenly not included in this list.
BLANCHE JORDAN, BS ’45, MA ’50, made a significant contribution to the nursing profession during a distinguished career as a nurse and educator. Blanche came to New York City to attend the Harlem Hospital Program during the late 1930s, a time when tuberculosis was among the most deadly and common public health problems. Blanche watched as classmates and her own mother died from the disease. Her commitment to nursing grew stronger, and, recognizing that she needed a more complete education, she enrolled in NYU’s program in nursing. Throughout her long career in public health, Blanche served as a pioneer and leader, and through her own teaching and counseling in the city’s high schools, she became a model for generations of nurses.

Blanche remains a loyal alumna of the College and a long-time supporter of the College’s scholarship program. During the course of her giving, she learned about the advantages of giving through the NYU Charitable Gift Annuity, which pays her a high and secure income for life, while also generating substantial tax advantages. Through these gifts, she is adding to her generous legacy of philanthropy at the College of Nursing.

“I MAY NOT KNOW WHERE THE MARKETS ARE HEADING, BUT I CAN BE CERTAIN ABOUT MY NYU GIFT ANNUITY INCOME. AND AT THE SAME TIME I AM SECURING THE FUTURE OF WONDERFUL NURSING FACULTY AND STUDENTS. WHAT COULD BE BETTER?”

— Blanche Jordan

NYU can pay you a high and secure income even in these days of uncertain markets and low interest rates. Contribute to the NYU Charitable Gift Annuity and help yourself and your loved ones, while also supporting the future of the College of Nursing. It’s rewarding, tax-wise, and simple—and it adds up to an intelligent legacy for you and for NYU.

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